



Children in the Library

Role of the Parent/Guardian/Caregiver:

Maintain responsibility for the conduct of children on library property

Ensure that children follow the guidelines outlined in the Library Code of Conduct.

Unattended Children: Children under the age of 12 may not be left unattended by an adult in a library at any time.

Children between the ages of 12 and 15 may not be left unattended for more than three hours.

Leaving a child unattended after being requested not to do so on a previous occasion is a violation of policy and may result in the Parent/Guardian/Caregiver losing his/her library card and privileges for up to ninety days.

Remove child who cries/screams for an extended period of time until they have quieted.

Maintain awareness of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport children.

Role of Library Staff:

Enforce the Portsmouth Public Library Code of Conduct fairly and effectively for patrons of all ages.

Report incidents to the appropriate personnel and record incidents in writing and/or electronically.

Unattended Children: If a child is left unattended in violation of the Portsmouth Public Library Code of Conduct, library officials are authorized to contact the ***Department of Social Services Child Abuse Hotline (393-9500)*** to report the incident and request appropriate action under the circumstances.

Emergency Closing: If the library must close in an emergency, library officials will make an effort to alert parents. If parents cannot be notified, Social Services or Police will be called to ensure the safety of the children until parents can be located.

The library staff is not responsible for:

the safety, care, or supervision of children of any age, whether in the library or on library property.

the care and supervision of children prior to opening and or after closing of the library.

the transportation of children to or from the library